

ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

50 St. Joseph Street, Toronto M5S 1J4 www.stbasiltoronto.org 416-926-7110

Office Hours: Mon-Fri (9:00 am; 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm - 8:30 pm) Sat-Sun (9:00 am - 6:30 pm)

ADMINISTERED BY THE BASILIAN FATHERS

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Chris Valka, CSB

Director of Music: John Paul (J.P.) Farahat Assistant Organist: Rashaan Allwood

Office Manager: Mary Hopper Social & Community Coordinator: Leanna Cappiello

Sacramental Coordinator: Emily VanBerkum



Feast of the Holy Family: From the depths of self to communion with others

By Emily VanBerkum

Growing up, my alarm clock rang at 7:30am every Sunday morning. Rain or shine, it was time to go to mass at Holy Family Parish. One of the things I always liked about going to church was looking at the art and architecture that served as my gateway into falling in love with the liturgy. I was captivated by an icon placed on the altar of the holy family. The image of the holy family was full of warm natural tones and hints of gold detailing. It was tender and life-like. A blonde, curly haired Jesus was cradled in his mother's arms, Mary looked down at Jesus lovingly, and Joseph had his arm placed protectively over Mary's shoulder. I remember looking at this icon and imagining how Jesus' family resembled my own.

I wondered about the special relationship Jesus had with his earthly parents. What's most intriguing is that although they are known as a *holy* family, they were certainly not one immune to hardships. Can you imagine Mary's fear and apprehension when she was told that she would bear God incarnate in her womb? Can you imagine Joseph's skepticism? In fact, it is foretold in the Gospel reading this week that although Jesus "will become strong, filled with wisdom and God's favour," a "sword will pierce" Mary's soul because her son's destiny comes at a price. It is true that every family experiences moments of joy and sorrow, and each family exhibits holiness in their own way.

Pope Francis has given the family a special primacy in the life of the Church given the recent synod on marriage and family life. Many commentators reiterated the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church's remark years earlier that the family is the "vital cell of society" central to the individual person and the creation of their worldview. The compendium states that the family is the "cradle of life and love"...it is where individuals transform from the depths of self to *communion* with others and "develop their potentialities, becoming aware of their human dignity as they prepare to face their own unique destiny." Significantly, this statement is a powerful

warning against the trap of individualism, and reminds us that the family is our formative source for learning how to love and to be loved- how to extend our own familial brand of holiness out into the world. And there is no greater model for this process of discovery than that of the holy family. I wish all of the families in our parish a blessed Feast of the Holy Family!

READINGS: Genesis 15.1-6, 17.3b-5, 15-16, 21.1-7; Hebrews 11.8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2.22-40

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31

7:30 a.m. Mass

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon: Confessions

12:10 p.m. Mass

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass for New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God
New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, 2014

9:00 a.m. Mass

10:30 a.m. Mass

12:00 Noon Mass.

NO 4:30 p.m. Mass.

The parish offices will close for the Christmas Holidays on December 22nd and will re-open on January 5, 2015.

JOHN FORD FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

Sunday, January 4th, is the John Ford First Sunday Food Collection for the Daily Bread Food Bank.

Your gifts of food or money will be gratefully accepted in the vestibule of the church at each Mass.

QUOTABLE POPE FRANCIS

In the face of the Child Jesus we contemplate the face of God. Come, let us adore him!

FOLLOW US

Please follow St. Basil's on our website at stbasiltoronto.org, on twitter @StBasil_TO and on facebook – St. Basil's Church, Toronto



CHANGE IN WEEKEND PARKING ON ST. JOSEPH STREET.

While parishioners are still able to park on St. Joseph Street weekends as they have been previously; there is a slight change. There are now signs in the area immediately east and west of the entrance to St. Basil's on the North side of the street and east of the entrance on the South side of the street; the signs are marked "NO STOPPING". Please avoid parking in this small area or you will be fined.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The 2015 offertory envelopes are available for pickup at the back of the church. Please provide your name and address on at least the first 2 donations you make. **BEGINNING IN 2015, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOU DISCARD THE OLD YEAR ENVELOPES AND BEGIN USING THE NEW ENVELOPES. PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT USE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ENVELOPES IN THE NEW YEAR.**

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

If you have a child in grade 2, it is time to consider enrolling them in St. Basil's First Communion program! This program begins on Sunday, February 1, 2015 and runs every week until the date of the First Communions on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at the 12:00pm mass. Classes run from 1:15-2:15pm. There will not be a class on February 15 or March 15 to accommodate Family Day and the March Break. When students meet with myself, parents will be meeting with Fr. Chris for an enriched program based on the children's catechesis also from 1:15-2:15pm on Sundays. Special participation in the 12:00pm mass is encouraged! Please contact Emily should you have any questions or would like to enrol (liturgy@stbasiltoronto.org).

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING ST. BASIL'S? Please visit our website stbasiltoronto.org to find out various ways to give before year-end.

December 28th – January 3rd

Sunday – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- 9:00 – Matos and Martins families
- 10:30 – Pro Populo
- 12:00 – Luigi Ciavarella +
- 4:30 – Richard Gardian +

Monday

- 7:30 – Jim Streeter +
- 12:10 – Rene Ercasio +
- 4:00 – Televised Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Mass

Tuesday

- 7:30 – Visitacion and Eluogio Potes Sr. & Jr. +,+
- 12:10 – Agrinoalda Couto +
- 4:00 – Televised Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Mass

Wednesday

- 7:30 – Alfredo Lavarro (liv.)
- 12:10 – Doris Marcon (liv.)
- 5:00 – Pro Populo (Vigil Mass)

Thursday- Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (New Year's Day)

- 9:00 – Pro Populo
- 10:30 – Pro Populo
- 12:00 – Pro Populo
- No 4:30 p.m. Mass

Friday – St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory the Nazianzen


- 7:30 –
- 12:10 – Vocations Mass
- 4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
- 5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

Saturday

- 5:00 – Special Intentions of the Donor

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially Ancoreta Amigle, Don Alvaro, Rita Moran, Rev. Kenneth Decker CSB, Clare DeMello, Edna Fernandez, Kenneth Heath, Marina Kazakis, Eric Christensen, Hilary McCormack, Rev. Dan Chui CSB, and Janet Ritch.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.



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